

Abstract 508

TITLE: “Killing Time: The Real Deal”—HIV Prevention in Corrections**AUTHOR:** Speier, T

ISSUE: Alaska’s state prison system has a disproportionate representation of Alaska Natives, accounting for approximately 35% of the state’s incarcerated population and only 15% of the state’s total population. This provided Chugachmiut with a unique opportunity to develop a pilot project providing HIV/AIDS prevention education to Alaska’s only maximum security prison while simultaneously creating a media campaign for prisoners, by prisons, with a special focus on the Alaska Native cultures.

SETTINGS: Based in the rural snowy peaks and frozen waters of Prince William Sound is Seward, the small fishing community where Alaska’s only maximum security prison resides. Spring Creek Correctional Center (SCCC). The target audience of this project was prisoners, correctional officers, and medical providers. The target audience for the development of the media campaign was strictly the incarcerated population. Most Alaska Natives are incarcerated for offenses that are alcohol, drug or sexual in nature. On the other hand, providing HIV/AIDS prevention education in rural Alaska is very expensive, not consistent, and has not yet proven effective in preventing high-risk behaviors in rural Native communities. HIV/AIDS prevention education in Alaska’s prison system unfortunately is a cost-effective way of providing education to high-risk Alaska Natives from all over the state.

PROJECT: (2-RTT) Chugachmiut is a community-based Native organization that provides health care to the Alaska Native villages and communities throughout the Chugach region. As part of a cooperative agreement with the Centers and Disease Control and Prevention, Chugachmiut implemented a three-tiered HIV/AIDS education program focusing on the incarcerated population, correctional officers and administration of SCCC. In collaboration with the State’s Department of Epidemiology, Division of AIDS/STDs, training was also provided to the medical staff on new treatment modalities. The main goals of this project were to provide education and develop educational material that could be distributed throughout the state’s prison system. The unique attribute of this project was that inmates took the information earned in monthly classes, and used the information in the developing “Killing Time: The Real Deal,” a media campaign made for inmates by inmates. Key informant interviews help set the direction of the project; pre- and post-tests were used during the implementation of the education phase, and personal testimony and the development of a media campaign by the prisoners was the third phase.

RESULTS: Qualitative results are presented in the development of “Killing Time: The Real Deal” a video made for inmates by inmates and feedback provided during training sessions. Quantifiable result is illustrated by the result of the pre- and post-tests that were administered during the education component for this project.

LESSONS LEARNED: Without access to any preventable measures upon their release, prisoners pose an ever-increasing risk to society as a whole. HIV/AIDS education was well received by the prisoners, and provided a mechanism for collaboration with case management services throughout the state. The development and implementation of education was met with some interesting institutional barriers, as well as several successes. In summary, however, for HIV/AIDS education to be successful in an institutional setting there must be some benefit associated with participating that is mandated from the top down. This is true for both staff and prisoners.

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